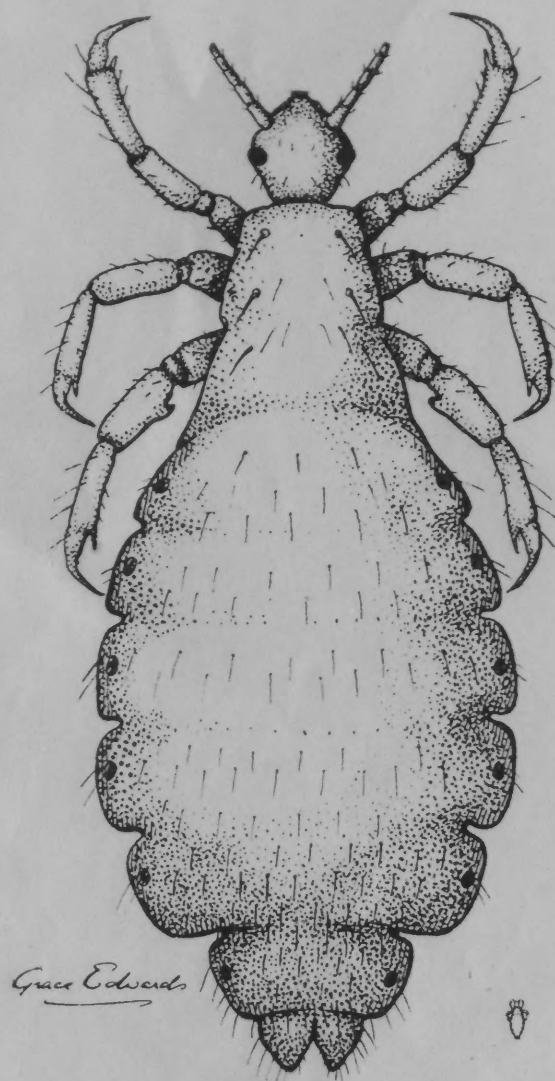


THE LOUSE DANGER

CLOTHES (OR BODY) LOUSE GREATLY MAGNIFIED.

The actual size is shown by the smaller figure on the right.

Colour: Pale Grey.



The Head Louse differs very little in appearance from the Clothes Louse, and is distinguished by its habit of living chiefly amongst the hair on the head

THE LOUSE AS A CARRIER OF DISEASE.

Lice not only produce irritation and itching, especially at night, causing sleeplessness and a general lowering of vitality, but it has been proved that the infection of RELAPSING FEVER, TYPHUS, and the FEVER known as TRENCH FEVER is conveyed by them. They increase and multiply at a rapid rate.

To prevent INFECTION it is of the utmost importance to AVOID SCRATCHING. (If necessary woollen gloves should be worn at night.)

HOW TO AVOID LICE.

- (i) *Regular washing of underclothing and bed linen*, weekly if possible.
This simple precaution will make it impossible for lice to thrive, even should casual infestation occur.
- (ii) *Avoid contact with persons suspected of being verminous.*
Particular care should be taken not to introduce lice into the home.
- (iii) Hospital workers, and others brought into frequent contact with verminous persons, are strongly advised to wear white linen overalls. The use of undergarments impregnated with an efficient insecticide is also recommended; these must be of stout texture, *i.e.*, flannel or closely woven cotton.

HOW TO DETECT LICE.

- (i) The presence of lice is usually indicated by itching. Search carefully the *inside* of the undergarments, especially the *seams*, *creases* caused by a waistbelt, the *armpits*, and the fork of the *trousers*.

HOW TO GET RID OF LICE.

- (i) *Hot bath*, followed by change of underclothing and *immediate* disinfestation of verminous garments.
- (ii) *Lice or Nits (Eggs) in the hair.* The infested hair, whether on the head or body, should be clipped very short, or shaved. In the case of women's and girls' heads the hair may be washed with an insecticide solution, and well combed with a fine-toothed *metal* comb, which should be gently *warmed* before use.
- (iii) *Disinfestation of clothing or bedding.*
 - (a) *Dry Heat.* The simplest and least costly method. A temperature of 55°C. (131°F.), maintained for 20 minutes, is fatal both to lice and nits. Clothing must not be bundled.
Ironing with a hot iron, paying particular attention to the seams, is also effective.
 - (b) *Steam.* Very effective, but requires special plant when used on a large scale.
 - (c) *Hot Water.* Especially suitable for underclothing. Temperature not below 55°C. Care must be taken that the volume of water used is adequate to maintain the temperature at the required level.
 - (d) *Naphthalene.* A small handful of flaked naphthalene scattered evenly between the blankets is very effective.

INSECTICIDES (not all effective against insects other than lice).

Light Oils, such as *Kerosene* or *Petrol*, more effective against the nits if a small percentage of some essential oil, such as *sassafras*, be added.

Lysol, or *Cresol Soap Solution* (soft soap, 1½ lbs., water, 10 gallons, Jeyes' Fluid, 1½ oz.).

N.B.—An immersion for 5 minutes in a 2% solution is adequate for temperatures above 5°C. (41°F.).

Naphthalene. The crude material retains its efficiency longer than the flaked product. Evaporation is also retarded if the naphthalene be mixed with soft soap and used as an ointment.